

## Why Farm to School?

Farm to School enables every child to have access to nutritious food while simultaneously benefiting communities and local farmers. In addition to supplying nourishing, locally grown and produced food in schools, the Farm to School program encourages and supports nutrition and agricultural education through taste tests, school gardens, composting programs, and farm tours. Such experiences help children understand where their food comes from and how their food choices affect their bodies, environment, and community.



## Iowa Farm to School Mission Statement:

Iowa's Farm to School mission is to encourage and promote the purchase of locally produced food in our schools, strengthen the farm economy and offer educational opportunities to improve children's nutrition and health.

*"There is growing interest statewide in locally grown food. The Iowa Farm to School Program provides farmers and schools with a chance to connect and share resources. This is a tremendous opportunity to tell the story of agriculture and the important role it plays in Iowa's economy."*

-Bill Northey, Secretary of Agriculture

## Iowa Farm to School Program



## How can I get involved?

### Start a Farm to School Chapter

Receive up to \$4,000 to create and implement a project plan that meets your school's needs while accomplishing the Farm to School mission.

### Support a local grower

Use the bid sheet tool and give a local grower a try. Start by sourcing something seasonal that requires minimal preparation.

### Feature a local grower

Invite a local grower to lunch or as a classroom speaker during National Farm to School Month in October, or any time of the year.

For more information regarding the Iowa Farm to School Program contact Tammy Stotts at: 515-281-7657 or [tammy.stotts@iowaAgriculture.gov](mailto:tammy.stotts@iowaAgriculture.gov)

Find us on the web at:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/farmToSchoolProgram.asp>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/IowaFarmtoSchool?sk=timeline>



**Iowa Department of Agriculture  
and Land Stewardship**

Funding for this brochure  
provided by the USDA-AMS  
Specialty Crop Block Grant

## Farm to School Beginning...

Iowa Lawmakers passed Farm to School legislation in 2007 to establish a program that would:

- Link elementary, secondary, public and non-public schools with Iowa farmers;
- Provide schools with fresh and minimally processed Iowa-grown food for inclusion in school meals and snacks; and
- Encourage children to develop healthy eating habits and provide them with hands-on learning activities.

The Farm to School Program is coordinated by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) in partnership with the Iowa Department of Education.



### Other Resources... (Available free of charge)

- Iowa Harvest Calendar Magnets
- Table Tents to promote local food events
- Looking for crop-specific material? Choose from the following Fresh Facts:
  - An Apple Approach
  - Here's the Skinny on Asparagus
  - Orange You Interested in Pumpkins?
  - Strawberries- A Berry Good Idea!
  - Take Time for Tomatoes

# Farm to School Initiatives

**Chapters:** The Iowa Farm to School chapter initiative is unique to Iowa. The success of the Farm to School Program depends on strong local networks of individuals and organizations familiar with their school's needs. The Chapter initiative is being implemented to allow schools to create a project plan that meets both the goals and mission of the Farm to School Program along with the needs of their school(s). Chapters require seven members (teachers, parents, community members) and can apply for up to \$4,000. A chapter can encompass one school or an entire school district. Some chapter activities include: school gardens, food fairs and taste tests. Learn more about becoming a Farm to School chapter by going to our website: <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/AgDiversification/farmToSchoolProgram.asp>

**A is for Apple:** A is for Apple was the first Farm to School initiative launched in 2008 and has maintained its number-one ranking in popularity. This initiative is created for classroom teachers and incorporates educational material for the classroom along with funds to procure locally grown apples. Over the years, this initiative has impacted more than 15,000 students and numerous Iowa growers.



**A Garden is the Way to Grow:** No other Farm to School initiative encompasses educational standards like a school garden. The "A Garden is the Way to Grow" initiative offers schools the funds to establish gardens and supplies to help achieve garden success. The hands-on lessons achieved through school gardens help incorporate health and wellness while learning to take care of the environment. More than 25,000 students have benefitted from "A Garden is the Way to Grow."



**Farm to School Month:** Time and time again, food is used to celebrate special occasions. October is recognized as National Farm to School Month and each year we celebrate our locally grown food and the growers producing it. Some Farm to School Month events include: Local Food Day, I Tried it Challenge and Share your food Photo Contest.

### Other Farm to School Opportunities...

- Farmers Market Scavenger Hunt
- Food Safety- Open Something Great
- FFA-Growing Together
- Wrap your own-Iowa Grown
- You say Tomato, I say Tomahto, You say Potato, I say Potahto initiative